

The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am concerned with the merger due to the following reasons.

¶ Echo Star has fought hard in court against laws that insure religious broadcasters access to satellite television. If Echo Star wins this fight, religious broadcasters will not be able to reach satellite viewers.

¶ Echo Star has also fought in court against the "must carry" law. The "must carry" law states that any Christian television station in any city must be carried on satellite and cable television. Echo Star wants to revoke the privileges of all those who currently watch Christian Television on satellite or cable TV.

¶ In addition, Echo Star announced its intention to drop the ABC Family Channel, claiming it doesn't have room on its satellites. This is difficult to believe coming from a company that has a half dozen pornographic channels on its TV services.

¶ In rural areas-and other parts of the country not reached by cable-TV viewers would no longer have a choice between two providers of satellite TV as they do today. A monopoly would dramatically affect the availability of the religious programming in all of rural America.

For these reason I am not in favor of this merger.

Sincerely,

Jessie Riddle  
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